

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23546C1

This proposed legislation amends 33-2205, Idaho Code. The purpose is two-fold:

- 1) To improve the availability of online professional-technical education by leveraging strategic relationships among the Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education (DPTE), Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA), Idaho technical colleges, and Pathways to Technology in Early College High School (PTECH). The goal is to provide greater access to quality professional-technical education by creating an online platform for students to earn high school and/or college credits, leading to a postsecondary technical certificate, associate of applied science (AAS) degree and /or national-recognized industry certification.
- 2) To promote the alignment of foundational professional-technical courses at Idaho public colleges and universities to achieve uniformity and transferability in core requirements for like programs of study. The goal is to align the first semester and/or first year of professional-technical programs at all public postsecondary institutions in Idaho. This will help assure that technical dual credits earned in high school will satisfy specific course requirements in a student's program of study and not as elective credit.

FISCAL NOTE

No additional appropriation or spending authority in FY 2016 through the state budgeting process is required to satisfy the requirements of this legislation.

The cost for program alignment at the postsecondary level is estimated to be \$200,000 annually for FY2016, FY2017 and FY2018. The goal is to complete this alignment initiative by 2018. The Idaho Division of Professional Technical Education has funds of \$300,000 to cover the costs for FY2016 and part of FY2017 that are allocated but are unspent and are allowed to be encumbered for this purpose in Idaho Code 67-3521. Additional resources of \$100,000 for FY2017 and \$200,000 for FY2018 will be requested in the PTE annual budget for those fiscal years.

The average cost for translating professional-technical programs to an online format for four selected pilot courses is \$60,000 for FY2016. The estimated costs for developing 10 courses annually is \$150,000 for FY2017 and FY2018. The Idaho Division of Professional Technical Education has funds of \$96,000 to cover the costs for FY2016 and part of FY2017 that are allocated but are unspent and are allowed to be encumbered for this purpose in Idaho Code 67-3521. Additional resources of \$130,000 for FY2017 and \$150,000 for FY2018 will be requested in the PTE annual budget for those fiscal years.

If the program is successful, enrollments in IDLA will increase, which will result in corresponding increases in the public school budget to accommodate those increases. For the pilot during FY2016 it is estimated that additional resources needed would not exceed \$90,000. Costs would be estimated at \$315,000 for FY2017 and at \$540,000 for FY2018.

In summary, the total estimated cost to implement these initiatives is \$350,000 for FY2016, \$665,000 for FY2017, and \$890,000 for FY2018.

Contact:

Senator Steven P. Thayne
(208) 332-1344